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Furnas Dedication

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FURNAS DEDICATION

OCTOBER 6, 1987

Thank you.

For many months, the Academy and the Fund staff have looked forward to this day; not only because we are officially and formally dedicating the Academy's Information Resource Center to the memory of an unusual and remarkable woman, Leto M.

Furnas, but also because to us, the Furnas Foundation's commitment to, and investment in the Academy is a tangible symbol of the significance of the Academy's mission and the importance of this school to Illinois education.

The word dedicate has many meanings and all of them formulate a dimension of today's brief ceremony.

Dedicate can mean to set apart for some special use; it can mean to inscribe to someone or to proclaim, and it can also mean to commit oneself to a particular course of thought or action.

For the Academy, the Information Resource Center is the heart of our academic program and culture. It is both a physical location - a room without walls - whose presence on the second floor encompasses and unites everything below it and it is also an environment that unites the disciplines together, fosters

integrated and interdisciplinary learning and opens vistas of information and data gathering, acquisition and research, as well as exploration to students and faculty.

The center is the focal point for investigation and research.

Presently there are books, and a facsimile machine which gives our students access to libraries across the state. In the near future there will be computers, lazer discs, CD Rom equipment, microwave transmitters and satellite dishes to enable our students to access information world-wide.

All of us in education know that we stand on the shoulders of those who

have come before us as we seek to build on the past, to improve the present and to prepare for the future.

Each generation adds to the knowledge of the generation before, and today we are dedicating this special place, and what it represents to a whole new generation of scholars and apprentice investigators and we are dedicating it to the living memory of Leto M. Furnas - a woman who's determination, courage, sense of adventure and willingness to risk-lead in a very real sense of the word, to the formulation of the Furnas Electric Company.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees
of the Academy and in grateful
recognition of the commitment of the
Furnas Company and Furnas Foundation
to the Illinois Mathematics and
Science Academy, I dedicate the Leto
M. Furnas Information Resource
Center to the students and teachers
of Illinois.

the legislature that the private
sector supports the Academy and its
mission.